

Notes from Comprehensive Plan Exploratory Group Meeting, Feb 27, 2017

These notes are being distributed for your information. The Exploratory Group is investigating the possibility of updating the Georgetown Comprehensive Plan (1993). The Group is attempting to get input from as many residents as possible.

The Group agreed that before making a presentation to the SelectBoard, a Town hearing or the Town Meeting, we need to:

- -Be able to outline both financial and other benefits to the town.
- -Be able to explain exactly what is involved in updating the plan:
 - What is the required content and format (framework)
 - Where does data come from and how will it be correlated into the required framework
 - What issues need to be addressed by the Town and how will we get participation from everyone involved or with opinions concerning these issues
- Would we benefit from having professional help in gathering data and/or facilitating discussion of issues.
- We also need to make it very clear that the process and framework do not dictate the bulk of the plan. Georgetown unique issues and concerns of townfolk will be the primary focus.

Exploratory group members have been discussing the possibility of updating Georgetown's Comprehensive Plan with friends, neighbors and associates. Pat Burns, in particular, has talked with numerous folks around town, explaining the concept and listening to their concerns. Feedback has been mostly positive. Issues that have been identified include:

- need something that generates jobs in town
- improved access to water
- affordable housing
- public transportation
- school
- aquafarming
- aging in place
- walking/jogging and biking on town roads and 127
- future of the town dock (3 aspects: commercial use, recreational use, restaurant)

The bulk of this meeting was brainstorming a list of issues that should be included in the plan. During this planning stage, the group needs to clearly define and articulate in detail what the issues are. Discussion of alternatives and solutions will be part of the actual planning process (if/when we move to the next phase). Ultimately the goal is to reach community consensus on a strategic plan for each of the issues.

Next Meeting Agenda: The group agreed to look at, define and document three of the issues from the brainstorm list:

- Aging in Place
- Future of the Town Dock
- Route 127 Maintenance and Safety (for bicycles, pedestrians) Improvements

The next Exploratory Group meeting is **Monday, March 6th, 7 pm at the Town Office conference room**. We welcome new members and visitors who have interest in the effort. We have also scheduled a meeting March 20th but do not yet have an agenda.